

Annual Board of Directors Election

Each year, we elect four members to the Board of Directors for three-year terms, plus others to fill vacancies. This year, sadly, we have two such vacancies, caused by the passings of Doug Kelsey and Tom Peluso.

The four candidates receiving the most votes will win three-year terms. The fifth-place candidate will complete Tom's term (through 2022) and the sixth will complete Doug's term (through 2021).

Four of the nine candidates are incumbents.

Ballots must be postmarked by December 1. The envelope in which you mail your ballot should have your name and membership number on the back. Please do not put anything else in the envelope.

The candidates:

D.A. Lux (Texas)

I joined the AFDCS in 1984 and was basically a closet member until the 2012 when I attended my first Americover show. Two years later I started exhibiting my Brooklyn Bridge FDCs. For the past seven years the AFDCS President appointed me as Chairman of the Board of Directors Nominating Committee.



I am also a member, and currently president, of the Fred C. Sawyer North Texas Chapter 56 of the AFDCS. You are welcome to visit our website at afdcschap56.org to see our meeting information and a selection of our chapter covers. Other philatelic organizations to which I am a member include: Ries Chapter 48, APS, US Stamp Society, ATA, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and the Texas Philatelic Association.

My collecting interests include FDCs and postal usage of the following stamp issues: 20c Brooklyn Bridge, \$2.00 Bobcat, \$1.00 Seaplane and the 70c C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson. I also collect U.S. FDCs sent to foreign destinations – preferably containing a receiving postmark.

If successful in this election bid, I hope to assist the board in growing our membership and keeping our hobby fun.

Ron Klimley (Florida)

Ron is a long-time stamp collector and exhibitor who joined the APS in 1982 and first exhibited at ROPEX in Rochester NY in 1988. Ron is currently a member of Polonus as well as the AAPE (Diamond Award Recipient and 2015 Clyde Jennings Award Winner), AFDCS (Board Member), UNPI (Board Member & Secretary), USSS, UPSS, ATA,

Sports Philatelists International, as well as several other philatelic societies. Ron enjoys philatelic writing, having authored articles for several journals. In addition, he is an enthusiastic exhibitor with a highlight being his participation at NY2016 as an exhibitor in the experimental first day cover class and as a speaker about first day cover exhibiting. He currently serves on the Polonus Board as Secretary. Ron resides in Tampa FL where he is a global training director currently working with Tampa International Airport.



Kris McIntosh (Arizona/Wyoming)

In the Sept-Oct. 2019 AFDCS Journal there was a slogan reading "Do Your Bit – Vote & Volunteer." As a retired high school U.S. history teacher, I believe in that concept. I now have over a hundred lessons for sale on a teachers' website, all based on images found on first day covers. For ten years I stepped out making presentations to school districts, setting up a vendor table at state and national social studies conventions where I sold my lessons, and giving away first day covers. Hundreds of teachers now know about first day covers and how they can be used in the classroom.



As to my personal collection, I started with the 1936 Susan B. Anthony stamp/FDCs. In 2015, I stepped out and set up my first exhibit at TEXPEX. Conversations with judges, fellow exhibitors and at a Women Exhibitors convention, have been very

helpful in providing ways to improve my exhibit. Last year I stepped out and began submitting a written column "Agitators on Stamps" for the WE quarterly newsletter. That connection led me to write an article on the 19th Amendment which appeared in the October *American Philatelist*.

Now I'm stepping out again to run for a position on the AFDCS Board of Directors. A fellow exhibitor told me that "you get out of an organization as much as you put in." What I would bring to the BOD is my willingness to volunteer, learn and work to continue to spread the news about first day covers and AFDCS to teachers and other organizations.

Michael Lake (Connecticut)

I have been a "quiet" member of the AFDCS for 32 years, having first joined as a Junior. My main collecting focus is ArtCraft cachet varieties. I have authored several feature articles, contributed to *The Comprehensive Listing of ArtCraft Covers*, and I currently write a regular column in *First Days* on the subject.



My other collecting interests UO's, FDOI ceremonies and cachets of single issues, including Bugs Bunny and Peanuts. I regularly write for *The Ceremonial*. I am also a member of the APS, APRL, Postmark Collectors Club, and the Connecticut Cover Club.

I work for ESPN College Sports.

We face unprecedented challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, but also interesting opportunities. Many club meetings and first day ceremonies have gone virtual. Once in-person gatherings can resume, I hope that participation remotely continues

Furthering our strong relationship with the US Postal Service — beyond the national level — is essential.

I fully support continued efforts for the AFDCS to work alongside other philatelic societies. There is tremendous mutual benefit in doing so.

Aside from some of the thoughts I have outlined above, I bring no agenda or preconception on how things must run. Throughout my professional career, it has been crucial to be a team player — not

just a leader, but a player first and foremost. I learn as much as I can to draw an informed opinion, be a good listener, and to learn to compromise. These are skills I practice every day in my work, and I would bring the same approach as a member of the AFDCS Board.

Gary Denis (Maryland)

I have been a stamp collector most of my life, and a FDC collector for about 35 years. I joined the AFDCS in 1987. I am employed by the Department of the Navy (NAVAIR).



I am a frequent contributor to *First Days*, and have also been published in *Linn's*, *Stamp Collector*, and society journals including *Topical Time*, *EFO Collector* and *Auxiliary Markings*.

In the 1990s I edited the Maximum Card Study Unit's newsletter, and was "Maximum Card" columnist for *First Days*. I authored the *Maximum Card Collectors Handbook* in 1995 (revised and republished in 2009 by the AFDCS). In 2007, I self-published a *Catalog of Norman Rockwell Paintings on Postage Stamps*.

I currently author the "Research Projects" column in *First Days*, which I conceived as a way to encourage members to correspond with others with similar interests. I have been the Publications Committee Chairman for several years, and serve on the Executive Committee as Education Director.

I also occasionally exhibit, including Legend of Sleepy Hollow FDCs, Washington Irving FDCs, Davy Crockett, and Teddy Bears (thematic).

I'm still just a collector and not a cachetmaker, except for the occasional cover for my own collection (maybe a couple extras for trading). My enjoyment of the hobby comes from my friendships with other collectors, writers and exhibitors, maintained through old-fashioned letter-writing, email, and meeting up at Americover!

If re-elected to the Board of Directors, my only real "agenda" would be to continue to encourage communication between members, and promote research projects suitable for AFDCS Publications.

Mark Thompson (Tennessee)

Chronologically, I may be one of the older folks on the AFDCS Board, but philatelically, I'm pretty youthful. Y2K was looming when I started collecting, and my earliest copies of *First Days* are from 2001. I assembled my first serious exhibit a few years ago, and most of its material is from the 21st century.



I enjoy and try to take advantage of the breadth of philatelic organizations. Locally, I'm an active member of the Nashville Philatelic Society. I think of AFDCS as my "home base," though I'm also a member of APS (20+ years), ATA, AAPE, ESPER (Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections) and WE (Women Exhibitors).

Professionally, before retiring I worked both as a plumber/handyman and a community organizer, working in both professions primarily within lower income inner-city neighborhoods.

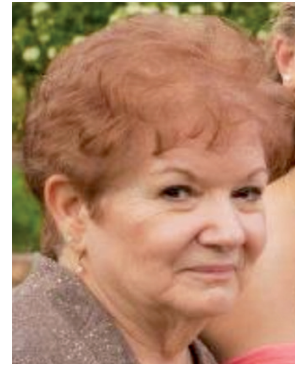
Membership in AFDCS has done a lot to enhance my enjoyment of our hobby. I still have a lot to learn, but I hope I have a lot to give. Shortly after becoming active with the organization in 2011, I volunteered to serve as the advertising manager for *First Days*. Since 2013, it's been my privilege to work with the many generous and supportive members who advertise in the journal.

More recently, I was elected to serve as the treasurer of AFDCS. It's my hope to work with our executive secretary to provide accurate and timely information to leadership and members regarding the organization's finances. I'd also like to facilitate a more formal and active Finance Committee to pursue longer term financial goals to strengthen the organization.

Tamsie Goyer (Oklahoma)

From elementary school dime-store packages of stamps to Americover, stamp collecting has changed for many and not just for me! Instead of matching stamps to pictures in a booklet to collecting cachet covers by Dave Bennett, Chris Calle, Fred Collins, Tom Peluso and many others, and finding out about First Day Ceremonies and programs, my interest in philately has only grown.

I am currently in my second term on the Board of Directors of the American Ceremony Program Society. I'm also an active member of the Claude C. Ries Southern California Chapter of the AFDCS.



I try to fly from Oklahoma (my home state) to California to attend several of the Ries Chapter meetings/food gatherings held throughout the year. Part of my volunteer work with the Ries Chapter and the AFDCS is working in the Americover Hospitality Suite, which includes assisting with the Silent Auction.

I'd like to work to increase membership by encouraging youth to collect First Day Covers and stamps, and, in turn, to join the society. I would like to assist in securing at least one first day ceremony at each convention, and in encouraging a representative from the USPS to make a presentation at Americover, as we've been able to do in the past.

With your vote, I believe I will be a welcome addition to the Board of Directors of the AFDCS.

A. Francis (Frank) Kohut (Maryland)

Frank is a long-time member of AFDCS and the Maximum Card Study Unit (MASCU). He regularly attends and volunteers at Americover and has written articles for "First Days" and the MASCU quarterly bulletin. He's especially interested in US stamps issued for nature, transportation and presidential topics. His wife of over 54



years, Dolores, can tell you exactly how long he has been retired from Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. His active membership in his parish church for over 40 years includes past Chairman of the Pastoral Council, lector and over 30 years as member of the music ministry. Frank hopes to increase AFDCS membership by generating attention in first days on maximum cards and other unusual items such as colorful calendar pages.

Foster Miller (Maryland)

I am AFDCS Life Member 333. I have been a member since 1978 and currently serve as Chairman of the Membership Department, Director, Chapter Coordinator, USPS Liaison and Convention Chairman. I run the AFDCS cachet and publication sales programs. I am a member of the Graebner (treasurer), Ries, 7-1-71 Affair, and American Ceremony Program Society (vice president) chapters. I am retired from the Department of Defense after 42 years serving as a computer system architect and related positions.



My goals for the next three years as an AFDCS Director include:

- Maintain and enhance core AFDCS services including *First Days*, the website, educational publications, and sales. We need to create a members-only area on the website that provides value added content to members.
- Integrate Americover into the Great American Stamp Show, working with the APS and ATA to produce the best stamp show in the country each year.
- Increase AFDCS presence on social media and use this presence to enhance recruiting and sales. A strong social media visibility will also allow us to meet our educational goals as a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Improve financial reporting and smooth out AFDCS cash flow to ensure that all expenses can be paid on a timely basis and that officers and directors are aware of potential problems before they occur. Add funds to our endowment account (which currently contains just over \$1000) so that seed money is available for new projects and efforts.